

Baptism . . .

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

"Those who believe....were baptized....that day!"
-Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him."
-Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

Can my family and friends be baptized together?

Yes! If each person understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family or group tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on the others to join you. This puts an undue pressure on them and delays your obedience.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Women/girls should wear shorts and a top or a swimsuit. Men/boys may wear shorts, t-shirts, or a swimsuit. White tops or t-shirts are preferable so they do not show under the white robe you will be wearing for your baptism. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

Will I have anything to say?

Our Ordinance of Baptism is as follows:

PASTOR (to congregation): I present to you _____, who comes today to follow the Lord in believer's baptism.

(To Candidate) _____, who is Jesus?

CANDIDATE: Jesus is my Savior and Lord.

PASTOR: Will you seek and serve Christ each day that you live and proclaim by word and example the good News of God in Christ?

CANDIDATE: I will, with God's help.

PASTOR: _____, upon your profession of faith in Jesus Christ and in obedience to his command, I baptize you our brother/sister in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

You are buried with Christ in baptism ... (immerse) and raised to walk in the newness of Christian life.

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Baptism

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Baptism ...

What is the meaning of baptism?

It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" -2 Corinthians 5:17

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." -Ephesians 2:8-9



It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried ... and He rose again." -1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." -Colossians 2:12

Why be baptized by immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." -Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) *"... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ..."* -Acts 8:38-39

The word Baptize means "To dip under water".

The Greek word "baptize" means "to immerse or dip under water."

It is best symbolized by a burial and resurrection!

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized ..." -Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized ..." -Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." -Acts 8:12

At Woodburn Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

What do I do if I want to be baptized at Woodburn Baptist Church?

Contact the church office.

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